MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM LIZ GREEN

How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In support

This is a vital step towards Scotland becoming a more equal society.

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In support

It is embarrassing that for so long it has been acceptable to deny a significant proportion of Scottish citizens the right to marry if they choose. This is an important step forward and should not be blocked. This has been a long time coming and I will be proud to live somewhere that has same sex marriage if the bill is passed.

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

In support

I think it is great that Humanist celebrants can legally conduct marriages in Scotland and that other groups should be welcomed if their beliefs do not incite hate or violence.

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

In support

It is a shame that there are celebrants who would not want to solemnise same sex marriages, but I respect their choice and it is good that the bill allows for this considering the controversy. I believe that civil registrars should not be given the option to opt in or out as their role is on behalf of the state.

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In support

This should be a straightforward and inexpensive process for couples that wish to convert their civil partnership to marriage.

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?
In support

I think this is nice. Why not allow people to marry in locations of their choice? It would also be a boost for the hospitality industry.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?**

In support

There are a number of religious groups who wish to carry out same sex marriages and religious couples who wish to marry in a religious space. If all agree why should they be denied this right. Liberal Judaism has been in favour of this for a long time.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?**

In support

This should be up to the individual and going through this process is probably difficult enough without having to enter into a legal battle around their marriage status.

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?**

The bill seems to allow people to opt out and this offers enough protection. I don’t feel that as a society we should go much further than this and condone the homophobia that is still rife in society. We should be looking at how to protect the rights of LGBT citizens who still face so much discrimination today. If this question was rephrased in terms of race or religion people would be up in arms.

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?**

Teachers should not have the right not to talk about same sex marriage if asked. This is perpetuating discrimination in an important role which is shaping the future of Scottish society.

**Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?**

**Are you responding as...**

a private individual

Liz Green
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